

Message Text

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TAGS: BENC; VE
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: PORTS;
NATIONAL PORT INSITUTE

REF: STATE 222728

1. ING. JUAN ACEITUNO, GERENTE GENERAL DE DESARROLLO OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PUERTOS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ROUND UP OF FUTURE PORT DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS. PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING IS CITED.

2. THE NEW NATIONAL PORT INSTITUTE WAS SET UP TO OPERATE ALL EXISTING PORTS IN VENEZUELA AND TO DEVELOP AUGMENTED CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES. THE INSTITUTE WILL BE AUTONOMOUS BUT REPORTING TO THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LAW NOW IN CONGRESS. THE PRESIDENT IS LAURO TORRES AND BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, FEDERATION OF DOCKWORKERS, AND SHIPPING LINES ORGANIZATION. UNDER PUBLIC CREDIT LAW, IT HAS BORROWING AUTHORITY FOR UP TO \$150 MILLION TO FINANCE TOTAL PROGRAM FO \$175 MILLION DURING PERIOD OF FIFTH PLAN, 1976-80. SPECIFIC PORT PROJECTS FOLLOWS:

3. PUERTO CABELLO: TOTAL EXPENDITURES WILL BE ABOUT \$75 MILLION. EXISTING WHARVES ARE BEING REBUILT NOW AND HARRIS D.I.T. IS PREPARING STUDY FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF WHARF,
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MATERIALS HANDLING, AND WAREHOUSE NEEDS. A GRAIN HANDLING

FACILITY IS NOW IN PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING STAGE. A CONTRACT WILL BE LET FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING DEFINITION. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT FURTHER.

4. LA CEIBA: ACEITUNO VERIFIED IS CORRECT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED CARACAS 11045.

5. LA GUAIRA: CARACAS 3246. THE WINNING CANELSA-SOMAGUE (PORTUGUESE) BID ON THE BREAKWATER CONTRACT WAS \$20,645,000. THE PRECOMPRIMIDO-ATKINSON BID WAS TOO HIGH. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN ALTERNATE PORT AT CARENERO MENTIONED IN CARACAS 10661 IS BEING PERFORMED BY A CONSORTIUM CONSISTING OF BCEOM (FRANCE) AND LORICA (VENEZUELA. THIS STUDY WILL DECIDE ON SITING, COSTS, AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. ACEITUNO BELIEVES A PORT WILL BE JUSTIFIED AT CARENERO BY 1985 BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED EXPANSION POSSIBILITIES AT LA GUAIRA. A PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE WHARVES THERE IS IN THE DESIGN/ DOCUMENTATION STAGE AND SHOULD GO TO BID IN EARLY 1977. REGARDING TRANSPORTATION LINKS, THE RAILROAD INSTITUTE INDICATED TO AN EMBOFF THAT THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING A RAIL LINK BETWEEN CARENERO AND TUY MEDIO. ON THE OTHER HAND, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GABALDON ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THE BEST ALTERNATIVES NOW AVAILABLE FOR A LINK BETWEEN CARACAS AND THE COASTLINE IS ANOTHER SUPERHIGHWAY ESSENTIALLY ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING CARACAS-LA GUAIRA HIGHWAY. AN INTERURBAN TRAIN TO LINK WITH THE CARACAS METRO WOULD BE INSTALLED ON A SECTION OF THE ROADBED LATER. ACEITUNO INDICATED THAT FINAL RESOLUTION OF ALL THE ABOVE IS UNCERTAIN AND WILL DEPEND ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL FACTORS.

6. MARACAIBO BULK GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT: CARACAS 11889. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US FIRMS TO SUBMIT PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTATION ON TIME. ACEITUNO AGREED TO ASK PRESIDENT TORRES FOR A DELAY, SAYING THAT GERMANS (BUEHLER-MIAG OR HARTMAN) HAVE PREVIOUSLY WON BIDS AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE US EQUIPMENT INSTALLED. ADVISE IF INTEREST IN US AND WE WILL PUSH AGAIN. VAKY

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